

only case on record, of junks having thus drifted abroad, I might possibly be taxed with arguing from rather slender premises; but there are more. There are two from the Honolulu "Polynesian," in the year 1847.

On the 21st of April last, (1847,) the Bremen ship "Otaheite," in Lat. 35° north, Lon. 156° east, fell in with a Japanese junk, which had lost her rudder and been driven to sea in a gale in November, 1846.* We rescued her crew of nine men, and took out of her 12,000 lbs. of beeswax and other articles of her cargo. She was about eighty tons burthen, belonging to Osako, and bound to the North. "

The whaler "Frances Henrietta," Poole, of New Bedford, in May, 1847, fell in with a Japanese junk, of about 200 tons, dismantled, rudder gone, and otherwise injured in a typhoon, seven months previous: bound to Jeddo; crew originally consisted of seventeen; but four only were surviving, two in a most pitiable condition from famine: all scarred with dirk and knife wounds; for fearful scenes seemed to have been enacted on board during the struggle for existence, and amid the paroxysms of hunger and despair. There are other particulars given which it is needless here to dwell upon.

There is another case of a shipwreck mentioned by the Indians as having occurred on the Clatsop shore, previous to the settlement of the whites among them. This is circumstantially corroborated by the fact

that large quantities of beeswax have been constantly gathered in the sands there since the first settlement; and it is still occasionally picked up.*

This fact, taken in connection with the quantity of beeswax found in the cargo of the junk picked up by the "Otaheite," is valid evidence that the vessel cast on the Clatsop shore must have likewise been from Japan. Some of the crew, it is asserted, escaped alive; and possibly at this day their descendants may be among the remnants of the native race.

In how far the relation of these facts may be considered to bear upon the question, it remains with my readers to judge; as also in how far the previous suppositions are reconcilable with facts drawn from other sources.

At the request of my friend Mr. George Gibbs, I have given such brief notes as I thought might prove serviceable; regretting that the cause already stated prevents my extending them farther. It is not however without diffidence that I have hazarded some opinions in which I may possibly have judged erroneously, but the expression of which I conceived to fall within the intention of Mr. Gibbs' request.

ALEX'R C. ANDERSON.

Cathlamet, Washington Ter., Aug., 1855.

* I last month received a quantity of the recently gathered wax, that had been purchased from the natives for me. Beeswax it is almost superfluous to remark, is noted for its quality to resist decay.

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X P.S. 1852 - I add to this the following passage, quoted in my Essay, vol. IV. published in 1872
 "Here [at Otaheite, Sandwich Islands] we rejoined the American ship Washington - - - Among other articles that the Sandwich [Islanders] had procured at Otaheite were eighty pounds of fine beeswax which had been drifted by the sea on to the shores of that island, and had very recently been picked up by the natives; and I now understand that some pieces had also been procured from the natives of the other islands."

